

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3791

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, XG (WALLACE, GEORGE)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF GOVERNOR WALLACE TO BONN OCT. 19-21

REF: STATE 221813

BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING HIS BRIEF VISIT TO BONN GOVERNOR GEORGE WALLACE MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL THREE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES INCLUDING FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER. IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH GERMAN LEADERS THE GOVERNOR STRESSED HIS COMMITMENT TO THE NATO ALLIANCE, THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES AND THE HISTORICAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ALLIES FOR THE RISE OF HITLER IN THE 1930'S. END SUMMARY

1. DURING HIS VISIT TO BONN ALABAMA GOVERNOR GEORGE WALLACE MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER (FDP), BUN-
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DESRAT PRESIDENT KUBEL (SPD) AND CDU/CSU CHANCELLOR CAN-

DIDATE HELMUT KOHL. THE GOVERNOR WAS BRIEFED AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AND MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF GERMAN INDUSTRY. THE GOVERNOR AND MRS. WALLACE ALSO HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH POLITICIANS FROM THE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES AT A DINNER GIVEN BY THE US MINISTER. THE EMBASSY WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN ARRANGING APPOINTMENTS FOR THE GOVERNOR WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, FEDERAL PRESIDENT SCHEEL OR SPD PARTY CHAIRMAN BRANDT.

2. IN HIS MEETINGS WITH GERMAN OFFICIALS AND POLITICIANS THE GOVERNOR STRESSED THREE THEMES: (A) HIS COMMITMENT TO NATO AND THE NEED TO MAINTAIN A STRONG US DEFENSE FORCE IN EUROPE, (B) THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INTERDEPENDENCE OF EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES, AND (C) THE ROLE THE VERSAILLES TREATY AND THE ALLIES PLAYED IN HELPING TO CREATE THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT BROUGHT ABOUT HITLER'S RISE TO POWER IN GERMANY. THE GOVERNOR'S SUPPORT FOR THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AS WELL AS HIS EXPRESSION OF THE INTERDEPENDENCE BETWEEN THE US AND EUROPE WERE WELCOMED BY HIS GERMAN CONVERSATION PARTNERS. DURING THE CONVERSATIONS, GOVERNOR WALLACE ALSO EXPLAINED THAT ONE OF THE PURPOSES OF THE VISIT TO EUROPE WAS TO MEET WITH EUROPEAN LEADERS SO THAT HE COULD DISPEL MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT HIS VIEWS ON WORLD POLITICS.

3. SOME ARTICLES APPEARING IN THE GERMAN MEDIA BEFORE WALLACE ARRIVED IN THE FRG WERE VERY CRITICAL. COVERAGE IN THE GERMAN PRESS OF WHAT HE DID AND SAID IN BONN WAS STRAIGHTFORWARD. THE AMERICAN PRESS REPORTING FROM BONN PLAYED UP THE FACT THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HAD NOT RECEIVED THE GOVERNOR. GOVERNOR WALLACE' RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT NOT MEETING WITH THE CHANCELLOR WAS, THAT HE WAS NOT A "HEAD OF STATE" BUT ONLY THE GOVERNOR OF ONE OF THE 50 STATES OF THE UNION AND THAT HE WAS VERY APPRECIATIVE THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD RECEIVED HIM.
HILLENBRAND

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